

Magic Valley Region

During 2005, the Magic Valley Region was home to 2 documented resident wolf packs, one of which counted as a breeding pair (Figure 10; Table 6). Both packs were implicated in confirmed sheep losses.

Documented Resident Packs

Hyndman

In August 2005, confirmed wolf depredations on sheep in Hyndman Creek led to documentation of this pack. Female wolf B194, her whereabouts unknown up to this point, dispersed from her natal Buffalo Ridge pack and founded the Hyndman pack. B194, the suspected alpha female, was lethally removed during control actions. This first-year pack had a minimum of 3 members, including a minimum of 2 pups, but was not counted as a breeding pair for 2005 due to B194's removal.

Soldier Mountain

In June 2005, 2 gray and 2 black pups were observed at a rendezvous site. Observations of pack members at this time indicated the possibility of mange; however, subsequent observations during winter indicated this was not the case. In September 2005, this pack was implicated in 13 probable sheep kills and 1 probable guard dog injury in the Beaver Creek drainage 22 miles (35 km) south of Stanley, Idaho. This fourth-year pack had a minimum of 12 wolves (7 black, 5 gray) and was counted as a breeding pair for 2005.



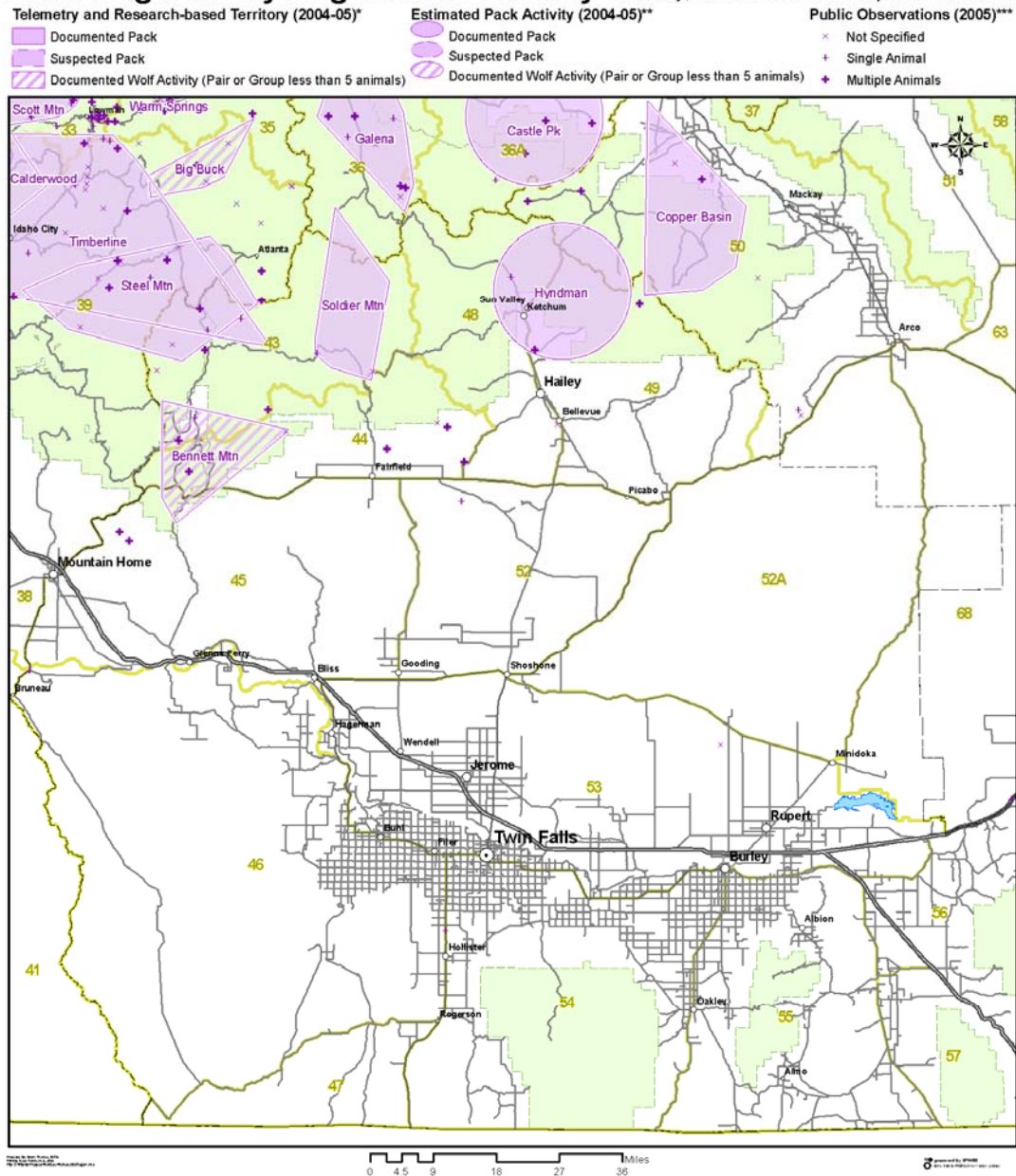
Members of the Soldier Mountain pack. Photo Michael Lucid

Other Wolf Groups Monitored

Bennett Mountain

Sole radio-collared wolf, B199, was located sporadically throughout 2005. She was located in January 2005, near Anderson Ranch Reservoir and then observed with another gray wolf near Little Camas Reservoir in March 2005. She was aerially located in April 2005, in the Lime Creek drainage. Efforts to obtain a pup count were thwarted by private land issues; however, extensive movements throughout the spring indicated she likely did not produce pups. B199 was not observed after March 2005, but her radio signal was once again located during the August 2005 monitoring flight in the High Prairie area. B199 was not implicated in livestock depredations during 2005.

2005 Magic Valley Region Wolf Activity Telemetry, Documented and Suspected Locations



* Telemetry data and research locations collected and analyzed by Idaho Department of Fish and Game, the Nez Perce Tribe, Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks and the National Park Service. Pack territories are minimum convex polygons of telemetry locations and research observations for radio-collared wolves from 1/1/2004 - 12/31/2005 with outliers removed. Packs which no longer existed in 2005 are excluded. This map is provided for management purposes and should not be used for data analysis. Do not release these data to third parties without first contacting the Idaho Department of Fish and Game or the Nez Perce Tribe.

** Estimated Pack Activity determined by biologists from research locations, public observations and incidental observations from 1/1/2004 - 12/31/2005.

*** Public Observations from 1/1/2005 - 12/31/2005 collected on the Idaho Fish and Game website and reviewed by staff biologists.

Map Produced by Idaho Fish and Wildlife Information System, Idaho Fish and Game in cooperation with: The Nez Perce Tribe, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, USDAAPHIS Wildlife Services, Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, and the National Park Service

Figure 10. Wolf pack activity and observations in the Magic Valley Region, 2005.

Table 6. Estimated pack size, reproductive status, mortality, dispersal, monitoring status, and livestock depredation for documented and suspected wolf packs within Idaho Department of Fish and Game Magic Valley Region, 2005.

Wolf pack or group	Min. no. wolves observed ^a	Reproductive status				Documented & suspected mortalities				Monitoring status			Confirmed & probable wolf- caused livestock losses		
		Min. no. pups prod.	Reprod. packs	Breeding pairs ^b	Active radio collars					Number wolves captured ^f	Number wolves missing ^g				
		Natural	Control ^c	Other human ^d	Unknown ^e	Known dispersal	Cattle	Sheep	Dogs						
Documented															
Hyndman	3	2	yes	no	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	0
Soldier Mountain	12	4	yes	yes	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	34	0
Subtotal	15	6			0	1	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	43	0
Other groups															
Bennett Mountain	1	0	no	no	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0
Unknown					0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	0
Subtotal	1	0			0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	8	0
Regional total	16	6			0	1	0	0	0	5	0	1	0	51	0

^a Number of wolves observed by wolf program personnel in 2005. Sum of this column does not equate to number of wolves estimated to be present in the population.

^b Breeding pairs are the measure of Federal and State wolf recovery and management goals. A breeding pair is defined as “an adult male and an adult female wolf that have produced at least 2 pups that survive until December 31 of the year of their birth...”.

^c Includes agency lethal control and legal take by landowners.

^d Includes all other human-related deaths.

^e Does not include pups that disappeared before winter.

^f Includes all wolves captured during 2005. Most, but not all, were radio-collared.

^g Radio-collared wolves that became missing in 2005.